Circassian Circle

Calvin Campbell

Circassian Circle is an English Country Dance. It's very old and very simple. The video clip shown here, is danced in a small hall in two concentric circles. It is danced in this version as a mixer. To see the YouTube clip, click here.

1-8 Everybody Forward & Back
9-16 Forward & Back Again
17-24 Ladies in and clap hands once and back out
25-32 Men in and clap once and turn around and go to the next lady to the left.
33-40 Balance twice with a new partner.
41-48 Swing this partner
49-64 Promenade

The above version is the modern version. The version I learned in the 1960s was quite different and had a story to go with the dance movement's. You will also notice this version is not a mixer. This version works very well in elementary schools where changing partners may or may not work very well.

1-8 Everybody Forward & Back
9-16 Forward & Back Again
17-24 Ladies in and hands clap once and back out. *(As the ladies start to clap they raise their hands high. This was the action of "Praise God(s)".*
25-32 Men walk in and stamp a foot once. *(The stamping action by the men is stamping out the devil.)*
33-40 Partner DoSaDo.
41-48 Swing partner
49-64 Promenade

The dance is described in "Let's Dance" an elementary school dance kit produced by the Lloyd Shaw Foundation. They also offer an excellent jig tune named "Sherbrooke" (Click Here) that can be downloaded as an MP3 from their website.

The dance was sent to me by Tom Crisp. The band and the tune are named in the information on YouTube. I could not find anyplace where this band had a CD that was available in the U.S.. They are very good. Click here for their website